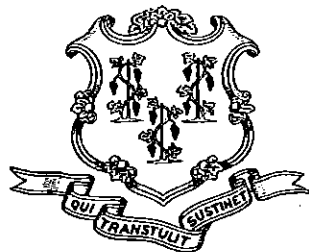


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SENATE

11th District

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Good Morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. I would like to express my support for several bills on the agenda today.

Two of the bills, S.B. No. 358 AN ACT CONCERNING PROHIBITING THE TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS OR MACHINE GUNS TO MINORS and S.B. No. 353 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MICROSTAMPING OF SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOLS would create better regulation of firearms. I proposed SB 358 in response to the tragedy at the gun show in Massachusetts. It is of vital importance that we keep children safe from assault weapons and machine guns. Children should not be in possession of these powerful weapons which they may not be strong enough to control. It is unclear under current law whether children are strictly prohibited from possessing assault weapons and machine guns and this legislation would leave no doubt that Connecticut will protect its youth from this obvious danger. SB 353 would require microstamping of semiautomatic pistols. Microstamping uses lasers to make engravings on the firing pin or inside the firing chamber which are transferred to the casings when the gun is fired. This process allows police to link the evidence to the specific gun that fired the bullet. Microstamping technology will help law enforcement identify and apprehend perpetrators of gun crime because, at times, the only evidence at a crime scene is a spent cartridge case. Microstamping will allow police to link used cartridge cases recovered at a crime scene to a specific firearm and to the criminal who fired it. In addition, microstamping will help reduce gun trafficking of new semi-automatic handguns because legal purchasers who buy guns in Connecticut for traffickers (known as straw buyers) will be deterred by the knowledge that crimes committed with the guns can be traced directly back to them.

I have also proposed S.B. 732 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SENTENCING OF DRUNKEN DRIVERS which would require the use of an ignition interlock device by a person convicted for the first time of drunken driving and it would give judges the discretion in certain cases to sentence a person convicted of

drunken driving to house arrest and monitoring by a global positioning system device and an alcohol consumption device rather than sending such person to prison. This bill proposes common sense changes to our laws regarding driving under the influence and would restore reasonable judicial discretion. While DUI represents a serious violation of the law, the state should not create laws that entice citizens to break the law. The ignition interlock allows these violators to remain productive citizens and it keeps our state safe from intoxicated drivers. This bill would also create a significant savings. There are approximately 400 people who are incarcerated with 14-227a as their most serious offense. The average cost of incarceration per year is approximately \$44,000; therefore if these offenders were released to house arrest, the state would save more than \$17,600,000.

I would also like to express my support for H.B. 6576, AN ACT CONCERNING LARCENY. This bill would increase the amount a person would have to steal in order to be charged with the varying degrees of larceny. It has been some time since this statute was adjusted for inflation and this bill is simply common sense. Finally I would ask that H.B. 6664, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS STATUTES CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM be amended to include the Federal Public Defenders as one of the federal agencies with access to CJIS. This is a reasonable change as the U.S. Attorneys currently have access but the defenders do not.

Thank you for hearing these important bills.